

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending. Claim 2 was canceled by prior amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,185,530 to Ittycheriah et al. ("Ittycheriah"). Claims 5-6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ittycheriah in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,594 to Furman et al. ("Furman"). Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ittycheriah in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,348 to Besling et al. ("Besling"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,185,530 to Ittycheriah et al. ("Ittycheriah"). Claims 5-6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ittycheriah in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,594 to Furman et al. ("Furman"). Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ittycheriah in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,348 to Besling et al. ("Besling").

Ittycheriah describes a method and apparatus that determines potential acoustic confusion between at least on new word and at least a portion of existing words of a vocabulary speech recognition system. *See* Ittycheriah, Abstract. Ittycheriah describes vocabulary expansion using a vocabulary expansion facility 20. A new word is input, preferably as a baseform, via an input device 24, which may include a standard keyboard or other conventional means. *See* Ittycheriah, column 6, lines 13-15 and column 5, lines 32-34. An expansion processor 22, linked to the speech recognition engine 16, compares baseforms (a sequence of phonetic units) of a new word to

baseforms of existing words to determine if the newly added word already exists in the vocabulary of the recognition engine. *See* Ittycheriah, column 7, lines 11-15.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites "speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database." Independent claim 16 recites that "speech data is spoken into the vocabulary database in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database." It is respectfully submitted that Ittycheriah does not teach at least these features of claims 1 and 16. In contrast, Ittycheriah merely inputs new words via a standard input device 24, such as a keyboard or other conventional means. *See* Ittycheriah, column 6, lines 13-15, and column 5, lines 32-34. Ittycheriah nowhere discloses speaking vocabulary/speech data into a vocabulary database in an automated manner using an audio module, as recited in claims 1 and 16. Because Ittycheriah fails to teach each feature of independent claims 1 and 16 it cannot anticipate independent claims 1 and 16, or any of their respective dependent claims 3-4, 7-11 and 14-15.

Furman describes a speech training processor 95, which generates a phonetic transcription of spoken words and passes the phonetic transcription to a database processor 110 for association of the spoken words with a telephone number. *See* Furman, column 9, lines 34 to 44. Furman does not disclose, and the Office Action does not rely upon it as disclosing, speaking the vocabulary data to the voice recognition system in an automated manner using the audio module so as to expand the vocabulary database, as recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Nor does Furman suggest these features.

Besling describes a method for recognizing an input speech pattern stored in a user station using a recognition unit of a server station. *See* Besling, column 1, lines 8 to 10 and 51. A vocabulary adaptation profile may include a list of additional words which are added to a basic vocabulary. *See* Besling, column 10, lines 54 to 58.

Because each of Furman and Besling fail to teach, or suggest, at least the above recited features of independent claims 1 and 16 demonstrated to be missing from Ittycheriah, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of Ittycheriah and Furman, to the extent proper, could not

render any of dependent claims 5-6 and 17 obvious. Similarly, a combination of Ittycheriah and Besling, to the extent proper, could not render any of dependent claims 12-13 obvious.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the respective rejections of claims 1 and 3 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 based on Ittycheriah, Furman, and Besling is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1 and 3 to 17 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

It is believed no fees are due with the filing of this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account 04-100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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